

What is claimed is:

- SUB
a18
1. A method of optical network termination in an optical network having one or more channels each potentially corrupted with noise, said method comprising the steps of:
- 5 receiving one or more input optical signals transmitted over said one or more channels of said optical network;
- filtering said one or more input optical signals so as to remove any accumulated noise; and
- outputting said output optical signal onto said one or more channels on said optical network.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of filtering comprises the steps of:
- demultiplexing said input optical signal into a plurality of individual optical channels, each said optical channel having a unique wavelength; and
- 15 multiplexing said plurality of individual optical channels so as to generate an output optical signal.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of demultiplexing is operative to generate a plurality of channels each corresponding to a different wavelength.
4. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of multiplexing is operative to generate an optical signal from a plurality of channels each corresponding to a different
- 20 wavelength.
5. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of demultiplexing is operative to be transparent to the bit-rate of each individual optical channel.
6. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of demultiplexing is operative to be transparent to the protocol of each individual optical channel.
- 25 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of filtering comprises providing a Fiber Bragg Grating based filter adapted to filter said one or more input optical signals.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of filtering comprises providing one or more Optical Band Pass Filters (OBPFs) adapted to filter said one or more input optical signals.

5 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of filtering comprises providing one or more filters constructed utilizing polarization based devices and adapted to filter said one or more input optical signals.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network comprises any combination of active and/or passive optical components.

sub 210 11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of monitoring the power
10 level of each individual optical channel.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of equalizing the gain of each individual optical channel.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of enabling and disabling each individual optical channel in response to a corresponding control input.

15 14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said multi-channel optical network employs dense wave division multiplexing (DEDM) techniques.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said multi-channel optical network employs coarse division multiplexing techniques.

20 16. The method according to claim 1, wherein said multi-channel optical network employs wide division multiplexing techniques.

sub 218 17. The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network comprises an optical ring network.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network comprises has a star configuration.

25 19. The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network has a mesh configuration.

20. The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network comprises a point-to-point based optical network.

sub
a18 } 21. An optical network terminator for terminating an optical network, comprising:
5 a receiver for receiving one or more multi-channel optical input signals;
an optical demultiplexer operative to demultiplex each said input multi-channel
optical signal into a plurality of individual optical channels, each said optical
channel having a unique wavelength;
an optical multiplexer operative to multiplex said plurality of individual optical
channels so as to generate one or more output multi-channel optical signals
10 with any accumulated noise removed; and
a transmitter for outputting said one or more output multi-channel optical signals.

22. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said optical network comprises single or multiple channel signals.

15 23. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said optical network comprises any combination of active and/or passive optical components.

sub
a18 } 24. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said optical demultiplexer is operative to generate a plurality of channels each corresponding to a different wavelength.

20 25. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said multiplexer is operative to generate an optical signal from a plurality of channels each corresponding to a different wavelength.

26. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said demultiplexer is adapted to be transparent to the bit-rate of each individual optical channel.

25 27. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said demultiplexer is adapted to be transparent to the protocol of each individual optical channel.

28. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising a monitor coupled in-line with each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said monitor adapted to monitor the power level of each individual optical channel.

29. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising an equalizer coupled to each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said equalizer adapted to equalize the optical gain of each individual optical channel.
30. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising an optical switch mechanism coupled to each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said optical switch mechanism adapted to enable and disable each individual optical channel in response to a corresponding control input.
31. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, wherein said multi-channel optical network employs wave division multiplexing techniques.
32. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising switch means adapted to virtually disconnect one or more optical fibers connecting said demultiplexer and said multiplexer thus shutting off one or more optical channels.
33. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising an optical attenuator placed in series with each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said optical attenuator adapted to control the power level of the optical signal in each individual channel.
34. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising means for reducing cross talk placed in series with each optical channel, said means operative to reduce the cross talk between adjacent optical channels.
35. The optical network terminator according to claim 21, further comprising gain setting means placed in series with each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said gain setting means adapted to set the gain of each channel substantially equal to each other.
36. An optical network, comprising:
a plurality of nodes, wherein a portion of said nodes employs one or more optical amplifiers;
an optical network terminator for terminating said optical network, wherein said optical network terminator comprises:

one or more optical receiving ports for receiving input single or multi-channel optical signals;

an optical demultiplexer operative to demultiplex each said input multi-channel optical signals into a plurality of individual optical channels, each said optical channel having a unique wavelength;

an optical multiplexer operative to multiplex said plurality of individual optical channels so as to generate an output multi-channel optical signal with any noise accumulation removed; and

one or more optical transmitting ports adapted to output said output single or multi-channel optical signal.

37. The network according to claim 36, wherein said optical demultiplexer is operative to generate a plurality of channels each corresponding to a different wavelength.

38. The network according to claim 36, wherein said multiplexer is operative to generate an optical signal from a plurality of channels each corresponding to a different wavelength..

39. The network according to claim 36, wherein said demultiplexer is adapted to be transparent to the bit-rate of each individual optical channel.

40. The network according to claim 36, wherein said demultiplexer is adapted to be transparent to the protocol of each individual optical channel.

41. The network according to claim 36, further comprising a monitor coupled in-line with each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said monitor adapted to monitor the power level of each individual optical channel.

42. The network according to claim 36, further comprising an equalizer coupled to each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said equalizer adapted to equalize the optical gain of each individual optical channel.

43. The network according to claim 36, further comprising an optical switch mechanism coupled to each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said optical switch mechanism adapted to enable and disable each individual optical channel in response to a corresponding control input.

44. The network according to claim 36, wherein said multi-channel optical network employs wave division multiplexing techniques.

45. The network according to claim 36, further comprising switch means adapted to virtually disconnect one or more optical fibers connecting said demultiplexer and said multiplexer thus shutting off one or more optical channels.

46. The network according to claim 36, further comprising an optical attenuator placed in series with each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said optical attenuator adapted to control the power level of the optical signal in each individual channel.

47. The network according to claim 36, further comprising means for reducing cross talk placed in series with each optical channel, said means operative to reduce the cross talk between adjacent optical channels.

48. The network according to claim 36, further comprising gain setting means placed in series with each optical channel between said demultiplexer and said multiplexer, said gain setting means adapted to set the gain of each channel substantially equal to each other.

49. The network according to claim 36, wherein said optical network comprises an optical ring network.

~~50. The network according to claim 36, wherein said optical network comprises has a star configuration.~~

51. The network according to claim 36, wherein said optical network has a mesh configuration.

52. The network according to claim 36, wherein said optical network comprises a point-to-point based optical network.

Sub
a18
53. An optical ring network, comprising:
a plurality of nodes situated around said optical ring, wherein a portion of said nodes employs one or more optical amplifiers;
an optical network terminator for terminating said optical ring network, wherein said optical network terminator comprises:
an optical receiver for receiving an input multi-channel optical signal;

an optical demultiplexer operative to demultiplex said input multi-channel optical signal into a plurality of individual optical channels, each said optical channel having a unique wavelength;
a plurality of optical attenuators, each optical attenuator coupled in-line to an individual optical channel, said optical attenuator operative to vary the optical gain of an optical signal;
a plurality of monitors, each monitor coupled in-line to an individual optical channel, said monitor operative to measure the optical power of an optical signal;
an optical multiplexer operative to multiplex said plurality of individual optical channels so as to generate an output multi-channel optical signal with any noise accumulation removed; and
an optical transmitter adapted to output said output multi-channel optical signal.

54. The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical demultiplexer is operative to generate eight channels corresponding to eight different wavelengths.

55. The network according to claim 53, wherein said multiplexer is operative to generate eight channels corresponding to eight different wavelengths.

56. The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to be transparent to the bit-rate of each individual optical channel.

57. The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to be transparent to the protocol of each individual optical channel.

58. The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to provide remote enabling/disabling of individual optical channels.

59. The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to enable the gain equalization of said plurality of optical channels.

60. The network according to claim 53, wherein said optical ring terminator is adapted to enable in-line monitoring of power level of said plurality of optical channels.

61. ~~The network according to claim 1, wherein said optical network employs coarse division multiplexing techniques.~~

62. ~~The network according to claim 1, wherein said optical network employs wide division multiplexing techniques.~~

5 Sub a18 63. A method of optically terminating an optical network having one or more channels, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an input optical signal containing a single channel and having wavelength associated therewith;

10 filtering said input optical signal to remove unwanted noise and to generate an output optical signal therefrom; and

outputting said output optical signal.

64. ~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network employs coarse division multiplexing techniques.~~

15 65. ~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said optical network employs wide division multiplexing techniques.~~